

# 3 Councilmen Reply to Questions in Open Letter

Three out of 15 City Council candidates replied to an open letter published in the Torrance Press two weeks ago. Replies were invited to help Torrance voters form a more concrete opinion of the candidates seeking election.

Following are the questions asked and the answers given:

**OIL DERRICKS**

1. Despite a streamlined oil field law passed by the present council, proper oil derrick provisions were sidestepped. Do you intend to propose stricter legislation which will permit the removal of hazardous derricks which, for all practical purposes, are inoperative?

Yes. I am in favor of a law that will cause the removal of all derricks that are inoperative and the replacement of all working rigs with new modern ones that will do away with the unsightly and unsafe ones. Further I think that for safety sake, all should be properly fenced.—**BILL KING.**

Yes. I very definitely believe all inoperative oil well derricks should be removed to cut down on unnecessary hazards for our wandering children, and unsightly scenery to our city.—**FRANK BURK.**

Regarding the new oil field ordinance and the removal of derricks; it is my belief that this ordinance is a step in the right direction and the only problem that can be foreseen at this time, is that of enforcement. Already on a voluntary basis many derricks have been removed and many sumps cleaned and fenced. Others are being swallowed up by natural improvements such as subdivisions and industrial planning. This ordinance should be given

a fair trial and if at the end of this trial period, it is then determined that it was not strong enough, some changes should be made so as to protect both sides of interested parties, i.e., the citizens of Torrance and the small businessmen, (oil field operators who are also a part of Torrance) because as you know, the cost of removing the derricks and having a portable rig to remove the casing, is an expensive program.—**BOB JAHN.**

**OFF-STREET PARKING**

2. The need for off-street parking is a serious problem in Torrance. However, Torrance still does not have a law requiring individuals or firms planning to construct new commercial enterprises to provide proper off-street parking sites. Do you intend to introduce such legislation?

Yes. I do not think that a law making it mandatory for new commercial enterprises to provide proper off-street parking area would keep anyone one from bringing their business into our city.—**BILL KING.**

Yes. I feel it is up to the merchants to provide their own parking area rather than the taxpayer to have to do so.—**FRANK BURK.**

Regarding the Commercial Zone and requirement of off-street parking for such a zone. It would be my suggestion or thinking, that if a similar pattern were set up such as in Los Angeles County Zoning Laws, which requires that for a C-1 C-2, which is light commercial, that an area equal to the building be established as a minimum for off-street parking. For other commercial zones some minimum should be established for off-street parking. However, in the downtown area, where an assessment district is being established, this should probably not apply.—**BOB JAHN.**

**BOND ISSUE**

3. A suggestion has been made to propose a \$1,000,000 bond issue to the voters for purposes of providing additional off-street parking sites in Torrance. Do you favor placing that issue before the voters?

Yes. Other cities having the same parking problems have been successful through bond issues in purchasing parking sites. It stands to reason they can't be purchased unless the money is available. I believe the people of Torrance would like to see this done. More parking means they would be more likely to shop at home and that more stores and shops would probably move into town. In the long run everybody would benefit.—**BILL KING.**

No. I believe we are overlooking the fact that the business area of Torrance is moving southwesterly where more room is available for large stores, such as should be encouraged to go along with the tremendous growth of our city. Therefore, if such an amount of money could be made available, I believe it should be invested in additional equipment for our Torrance bus line. This would enable us to continue the present L. A. Torrance service west on Torrance blvd., to Hawthorne and southerly to our most modern shopping district at 101 and Hawthorne. We should institute a complete shuttle service through all our new housing developments so that the people of the South and Southwest Torrance area could get in and out of Torrance instead of going to neighboring towns to shop—whereas, now the surrounding cities are infiltrating our outlying communities and taking our business.—**FRANK BURK.**

Regarding a \$1,000,000 bond issue for off-street parking being put before the voters in Torrance. It is my belief that this would not be the way to resolve this issue. Off-street parking should be the particular concern of those directly benefiting therefrom. Consequently the assessment district now being set up, which is being participated in by the business property owners and merchants and a small share of city funds from parking meter revenues; plus proper zoning requirements for future developments; is a better answer than having all the citizens in Torrance pay for off-street parking by way of a bond issue.—**BOB JAHN.**

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